(iv) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports; and

(v) In addition a welfare scheme for Insurance is being implemented.

Incentive to Textile Sector

1537. SHRIRUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Textile Ministry was considering incentives to the textile sector and has submitted to Finance Ministry its proposals to protect the interest of the entire sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry's plan has been accepted by the Finance Ministry;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has also taken into consideration the KeJkarTask Force's recommendations suggesting uniform duties of 12 to 16 per cent on textiles items by 2004-2005 and lifting some of the exemptions; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Ministry on this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (e) Ministry of Textiles makes recommendations annually to Ministry of Finance in respect of the duty and tariff structure, keeping in view the need to promote investment and growth in the textile sector and a harmonious balance among various segments and stages of the value chain. In finalising its recommendations, the Ministry takes into consideration the views of industry associations, federations, councils, etc. and other inputs, such as, this year, the recommendation made by the Task Force set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Kelkar. These recommendations have been used as sinputs in formulation of Budget proposals.